

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IO-13 AF-10 SS-15 L-03 IGA-02

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIN, CB

SUBJECT: ESF AND IMF

REFERENCE: PHNOM PENH 9707

1. THE POSSIBILITY OF IMF REPRESENTATIVE ACCOMPANYING SOK CHHONG TO NAIROBI MEETING DISCUSSED WITH HEAD OF ASIAN DEPARTMENT OF IMF AND HIS DEPUTY. THEIR ATTITUDE AS INDICATED IN REFTEL NEGATIVE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:
1) DELEGATIONS TO IBRD/IMF ANNUAL MEETINGS ATTEND TO DISCUSS GLOBAL ISSUES AND ARE NOT BRIEFED ON MATTERS SUCH AS ESF;
2) REPRESENTATIVES ARE ORDINARILY FROM FINANCE MINISTRIES OF GOVERNMENTS RATHER THAN AID ORGANIZATIONS; 3) EXPERIENCE WITH CAMBODIAN EFFORTS AT PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN NON-PRODUCTIVE AND IN SOME CASES COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE BECAUSE OF CROWDED SCHEDULES AND MEMBERS RESENTMENT HAVING THEIR TIME TAKEN UP WITH ISSUES EXTRANEOUS TO IMF AGENDA.

2. POINTS MADE IN REFTEL CONVEYED TO IMF BUT THE DEPUTY

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HEAD OF THE ASIAN DIVISION POINTED OUT THAT TWO EXPERTS FROM

THE FUND, JACK WOODLEY, AND AL MATTERA, BOTH KNOWLEDGEABLE ON ESF, WILL BE IN NAIROBI AND WILL BE WILLING TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH THEY CAN HELP SOK CHHONG. THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 OR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, IN THE ASIAN DEPARTMENT OF THE CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS TO CONSULT WITH SOK CHHONG.

3. IMF SUGGESTS THAT APPROACH TO DONOR AMBASSADORS IN PHNOM PENH PRIOR TO NAIROBI MEETING WOULD BE BEST WAY TO GET MESSAGE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN DONOR GOVERNMENTS.

THE FUND ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING AID FROM THE EEC FUND FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE BE EXPLORED WITH THE EEC AMBASSADORS REPRESENTED IN PHNOM PENH.

4. IMF COMMUNICATING DIRECTLY WITH EVERAS FOLLOW UP TO DEPARTMENT'S DISCUSSION. RUSH

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